

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's Office Action of July 3, 2007 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment of the abstract and claims, and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

the abstract is amended to be in proper form;

independent claim 1 is amended to specify that the second secret information is determined by applying a one way function to the secondary entities identifiers and the first secret information so that the second secret information is a variant of the first secret information only ascertainable with knowledge of the first secret information. Support for this amendment can be found at paragraphs [5411]-[5426] of the present specification;

dependent claim 5 is amended to replace "SHA" with --Secure Hash Algorithm--; and

dependent claims 2-4 and 6-32 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the Amendment does not add any new matter to the present application.

Regarding Foreign Priority

It is respectfully noted that the Applicant is concurrently submitting certified copies of the foreign priority documents.

Regarding Specification Objection

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment of the abstract to be in proper form, provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding Claim Objection

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to claim 5 provides the definition of "SHA", as required by the Examiner.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) and 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-32 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggest by Spies et al. (US 5,689,565) either taken alone or in view of Schneier, for at least the following reasons.

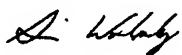
As discussed above, independent claim 1 has been amended to specify that the second secret information is determined by applying a one way function to the secondary entities identifiers and the first secret information so that the second secret information is a variant of the first secret information only ascertainable with knowledge of the first secret information. In this way, equivalent signatures can be generated by the different entities without passing of secret keys (see paragraphs [5411]-[5426] of the present specification).

On the other hand, Spies merely discloses a registration method in which unique private keys are used by the certified trusted authority and the participants and public keys are shared and communicated (see col. 8, line 14-col. 11, line 19). Further, Schneier merely describes private/public key systems, such as that used in Spies.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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